

The GARZETTE

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Welcome To Field Day 1997

By Mark Kozma KD3GC

Welcome! Welcome to one and all. Welcome to the 1997 **GARS** Field Day.

Well where does one start? How does one even try to begin to duplicate the Field Day that we had last year? I remember all the talk on the repeater about how much fun Field Day was and this talk lasted for weeks. My hat is off to Joe Biddle, AD4PZ and his crew for a job well done. So here is my dilemma; how does one go about doing a job that was done so well last year? You surround yourself with good people like this year's Field Day Committee. I pray and hope that this Field Day will meet your expectations and be as good as years past.

Going back in time I remember it like it was yesterday. I was having the usual problem with trying to keep my big mouth shut and was losing the battle fast. I was rambling on about antennas and contesting, not thinking that I had anything to fear when all of a sudden I hear; "You, Mark, KD3GC ". The sound was deafening with this scary New England accent which struck terror into my very soul. I tried to think fast and assess the situation. Either God is from Boston or it was Howie. "I want you to be my Field Day chairman for next year " the voice said. Well just in case that it wasn't Howie and it was God, I had to be ready with an answer. So I opened my mouth and inserted my foot. "yes" I said. I think this might have been a momentary lapse of reason on my part. It could happen!

Right off the bat I knew I had to get the right people involved and I feel that this has been accomplished. An event is only as good as the committee that plans it and none of this could take place without their dedication and hard work. Your 1997 Field Day Committee is comprised of Don Button AJ1T; Gail Button, Mrs. AJ1T; Walter Bryant WB4PQQ; Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI; Pickett Cummins, AD4S; Guy West, N0MMA; Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ; and myself, Mark Kozma, KD3GC. Please thank these people the next time you see them for the hard work they have done on your behalf. I would also like thank my many coordinators for their time and efforts, for they are just as important as everyone else.

Like I said before, I had some pretty big shoes to fill and I didn't know how this Field Day would stack up to others. Then it hit me just like a like a band opening on 10 meters, I don't have to worry about Field Day. Because each Field Day is different in its own way and all of the little things will take care of

Continued on page 2

Inside This Issue

Welcome to the 1997 Field Day Special Edition. This marks the second consecutive that **GARS** has marked Field Day with a special issue of The GARZETTE.

Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ, our Food Coordinator details his plans and menus for the Field Day meals on pages 2 and 3.

Jud Whatley, W4NJZ brings us another great story from Field Days past on page 4 with *Don't Let Go of the *#@%*& Rope*.

Mark Kozma, KD3C, the **GARS** Field Day Chairman reflects on Field Day in *Defining Moments* on page 5.

Randy Drescher, K4HS gives us some history behind the callsign that **GARS** will use on Field Day 1997 on page 6.

In a reprint from last year's edition, Pickett Cummins, AD4S describes the logging process on page 7.

Robin Huckaby, WB4GKI shares some of his Field Day memories with *Field Day Remembrances* page 8.

Pages 9 and 10 are devoted to the satellite operations with a schedule and article by Don Button, AJ1T.

There's much more inside as well, I hope you enjoy what I've prepared.

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM

The GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, submit items in ASCII text format or Microsoft Word format by email to ad4pz@aol.com or by posting a private message on the SA BBS (770) 903-6789, to Joe Biddle in the GARS conference. Use the Save Attached command and mark the security to receiver only. Art can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted on an IBM formatted disk or via email as an unencoded file attachment.

Contact the editor for other format compatibility or other means of transfer.

Deadline for submissions is the first of each month.

GARZETTE Editor
Joe Biddle, AD4PZ
Editor's Desk: (770) 963-4316
Email: AD4PZ@aol.com

The GARZETTE is created on a P5-133 MHz computer using Microsoft Publisher 97 and Microsoft Word V7.0 running Windows 95.

Thanks to Art Smith, KE4MQX for providing the printing services each month. Rita Biddle, KE4WV gets the stamps and makes sure the newsletter gets to the post office each month.

My thanks to all of them for their help in producing The GARZETTE.

All correspondence relating to articles posted in The GARZETTE or for information concerning advertisement rates for The GARZETTE should be directed to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30226
Attn: Newsletter Editor

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The GARZETTE articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided proper credit is given to the individual author and to The GARZETTE.



Welcome To Field Day 1997

Continued from Page 1

themselves. There is no doubt in my mind that this will be a great Field Day and this is all because of YOU. The club participation has been outstanding and will continue to be so. I want thank all of you who have stepped up to the plate and said, "let me hit coach, let me hit". That's what makes **GARS** the great club that it is and the teamwork approach will benefit us all. I can't think of a better way to celebrate the 20th anniversary of **GARS**. So come on out to Field Day and get involved. It will only make your club better.

As we move into this last week-end of June, let's have fond memories of days gone by, but let's also look into the future. The future of **GARS** looks very bright. This is going to be a fun time had by all because you decided to get involved. So don't be left out of the fun because it just won't be the same without you. This is your Field Day, so take ownership in it, and I will see you all on June 28th and 29th. Until then 73.



1997 FIELD DAY MENU

Saturday Lunch:

Deli style sandwiches
Choice of meats and bread
Potato Chips
Desserts: Cookies and Cakes

SATURDAY EVENING:

Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
Turkey or Veggie Burgers for
those who prefer
Potato Chips
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
Desserts: Cobbler - Apple,
Peach, Cherry, & Blueberry

MIDNIGHT MEAL:

Shrimp Biengets with Mardi
Gras dip
File' Gumbo
Hot Fudge Sunday Surprise

SUNDAY BREAK- FAST:

Breakfast Burritos
(scrambled eggs, sausage &
hash browns in a soft tortilla)
Hot Cinnamon Rolls
Juice

SUNDAY LUNCH:

Deli style sandwiches
Choice of meats and bread
Potato Chips
Desserts: Cookies and Cakes

HOT COFFEE AND SOFT DRINKS ALL DAY AND NIGHT

Food For Field Day

By Earl Whately, KE4TXZ

You can't expect people to stay and work all day Saturday and Sunday without providing some tasty meals and the Food Committee will be ready with lots of food this Field Day. We're sure you won't go hungry.

Saturday's lunch will be deli style sandwiches with chips and sodas and cookies and cake for desert. We'll be ready by noon.

We'll prepare hamburgers and hot dogs along with a few veggie burgers for the evening meal to be ready about 6:00 PM. You can top this culinary masterpiece with the usual condiments and perhaps add a few mushrooms. Wash it down with sodas and compliment it with potato salad, baked beans and who knows what other goodies, and finish it off with cookies and cake.

The cobblers (ala mode?) should be ready about 8:00. We've had requests for apple, peach, blueberry, and cherry. The sugar high should set you up for the night shift.

Its hard to keep going all night without some sustenance so the file' gumbo and the shrimp beignets will be ready about midnight. Dip from the pot until it's gone. The fudge surprise is a famous Boy Scout recipe that is mostly chocolate and sugar and should definitely be ala mode.

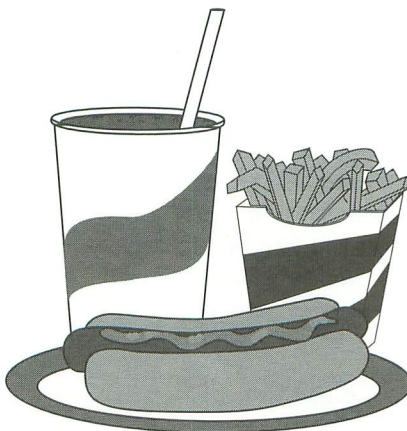
You'll assemble your breakfast. Mix scrambled eggs, sausage, hash browns and maybe a few mushrooms and peppers on a soft tortilla and roll your own. You can eat with one hand and log or operate CW with the other but I wouldn't recommend phone. There'll be cinnamon rolls and plenty of coffee. We'll be ready about 7:00 AM.

Sunday's lunch will be sandwiches and leftovers so we can eat quickly as we disassemble the site.

We'll spread it out about 11:00 so you can eat when you're ready.

There'll be lemonade and sodas all day and coffee all night and plenty of food so plan to be there.

Your Food Committee,
Ray Kaplan, KA9GJL
Carter Wood, KF4HLF
Nova Whatley, KF4HLG
Susan Farr
Earl Whatley, KE4TXZ



GARS Officers 1997-1998

President

Ike Chapman, KE4GYM (770)339-8123

Vice President

Larry Osborne, KD4QFD (770)513-2799

Secretary

Bill Ahls, KE4EIH (770)279-7044

Treasurer

Randy Drescher, K4HS (770)925-9549

Activities Manager

Marty Fowler, KE4MLH (770)682-5789

Board Of Directors

Johnny Fearon, W4WKP (770)466-4038

Duane Hanson, KD4KCR (770)962-6086

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

COMMITTEES

Membership Chairman

Jack Herndon, KS4LS (770)995-0438

Publicity Chairman

John Sokol, KE4KPV (770)931-3235

Newsletter Editor

Joe Biddle, AD4PZ (770)963-4316

License Trustee

J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S (770)339-9231

Repeater Chairman

Howie Gould, W4NVF (770)921-8362

TVI

David Schulte, KT4NK (770)923-0389

Contest Manager

Carlton McPherson, WA4ZUW (770)476-5718

Net Manager

Jeff Harrison, KD4GPI (770) 736-7158

CW Net Manager

Don Button, AJ1T (770) 476-2432

Rookie Radio

Carter Wood, KF4HLF (770) 923-9667

Field Day

Mark Kozma, KD3GC (770)962-7386

Education Coordinator

John Veach, KE4D (770) 614-1513

Legal Counsel

Bill Brandon, KR4KT (770)985-8125

Apparel Manager

Suzanne Farr, (770)279-8711

Christmas Party Chairman

Suzanne Farr, (770)279-8711

Packet Cluster

John Farr, KD6CLO (770)279-8711

HF/VHF/UHF Awards Checker

Don Ennest, KS4WR (770)923-4851

DXCC Checker

Frank Deak, AF4Y (770)978-6546



Let Go of the #*\$%@ Rope

By Jud Whately, W4NZJ



It was 1975 and the Rowan Amateur Radio Society was having its annual Field Day on Young's Mountain which is one of the highest points around Salisbury, North Carolina. I had just made my last contact on 15 meter ssb as the band was closing down about 01:30 EST (yes...during good sunspot cycles, 15 remains open until the wee hours in the morning). As I was switching to 20 meters, I felt a gust of moist wind against my back and my papers were almost blown away. Since I had on headphones and had not heard some recent conversations among our field day team, that was my first hint that something was wrong.

I quickly turned asking what was wrong and was told by Don, WB4FOK that a bad rain and wind storm was approaching! How could that happen? I thought that we were protected by the "Field Day gods"....but it was and I had to start helping protecting the rigs and other equipment. Several started working in and around the immediate area. But, I was called to help temporarily lower the Butterfly beam by Bill, K4GHR while his daughter and XYL (JoAnn) worked feverishly closing up their nice camper nearby.

It was very difficult because at that height on the mountain and with the wind's increasing velocity, we couldn't hear ourselves think...much less talk or scream. The beam was up about 40 feet on a temporary mast guyed by ropes and was coming down either by design or

by the wind. Four of us grabbed one of the four-rope supports and began untying them while awaiting further instructions. Lights began flickering as the generator faulted...the protective covers over the equipment was being blown away....It seems our beam was about to be blown down. Yep, it really had the makings of an exciting Field Day I thought as the rain started pounding my face!

Bill was yelling at the top of his lungs to someone saying something but we could not hear for the wind and rain and we could not see anyone or anything. Suddenly all was quiet as the wind died down temporarily just long enough for us to hear Bill say very loudly, "Let go of the damn rope"! Not knowing he was only speaking to Don and all assuming he was talking to the rest of us individually, we ALL let go of our ropes at the same time! The lights flickered on again and I saw a sight that will remain in my memory for the rest of my life....a beam antenna and mast falling! It started leaning ever so slowly and began slowly picking up speed as it fell. It was almost as if it were in slow-motion. Realizing what was happening, everyone started yelling at the same time and scrambled for the ropes! But alas, it was too late. The beam came crashing down!

Sometimes when all seems to be going wrong, something magically happens to make everything right

again. However this was not the case. Things got WORSE...not better. That beautiful two (2) element tri-bander crashed down on Bill's brand new camper sitting nearby. With a loud THUD it hit the camper squarely while everyone stood in awe...not a word being said.

We regained our composure long enough to all rush to the camper at the same time to see if everyone was safe inside. Everyone knows that a camper's door is only made for one person to enter at a time..not 4 or 5. But by now, it is obvious that we weren't thinking too logically. As we rushed in two stumbled and hit a table under the camper's porch tent and overturned it. One person on the group's left tripped and actually slid partly underneath the camper. With only Bill and I remaining on our feet, we tried entering the door at the same time. Both of us wedged in the door but could see the look of sheer terror on JoAnn's face as she stood speechless looking at a tangled element in her camper!

Well, the Lord seems to take care of those who cannot take of themselves and this includes bumbling Hams. The beam's front element was totally destroyed and a nice large hole was punched in Bill's and JoAnn's new camper roof. However, and more importantly, no one was hurt and no equipment was ruined. After cleaning up the campsite, we were able to limp along making some additional contacts using only dipoles. Needless to say, our scores were not impressive that year!

Years have passed and we still laugh about that memorable but scary night. However to no one's surprise, we noticed that JoAnn never attended another Field Day and Bill never brought his camper again!



Defining Moments

By Mark Kozma, KD3GC

There are always different things that happen that makes each Field Day special in its own way. These are special memories that each of us have and we store and treasure them for a lifetime. I find a smile coming across my face when I hear a seasoned ham explaining Field Day to a new comer or just telling his war stories of Field Days gone by. I call these defining moments, and these moments are how we seem to set the standards for Field Days to come. Not one is the same as the last and that's what makes this year's event just that much more exciting. So, with all that said, what will be this year's defining moment? What will be etched into our memories for the years to come?

Not all of us have the same defining moment and some of us do share the same. For most, we can remember that first Field Day. Just the raw excitement we all had, not quite knowing what to expect, but nonetheless thrilled just to be part of it. For some it might be the thunderstorm that rolled through about 4:00 PM on Saturday, and the mad scramble to make sure all the antennas were disconnected from the rigs and that the water wasn't going to get in the tent. I can remember setting up on the top of hill that overlooked Doylestown, Pennsylvania to the east. The view was great and so was the 10A effort we put in. Yes, there were a lot of contacts made that year and we were the best in the 10A category. So what will be this years? Do you know?

I think the things we remember the most are the good times, the camaraderie that we share with each other. In 1995, I met Guy West, N0MMA, and we became friends as we worked 20 meters together. In 1996, I met Randy Drescher, K4HS, with the same result. You know, there

must be something about 20 meters. And let's not forget all the hilarious things that happened either. How many of us will never forget Howie, W4NVF trying to work that Hawaiian station on 20 meters using his best YL (young lady) voice, or the roar that erupted at 5:00 AM when that Hawaiian station finally landed in the log book. How about when Junior climbed up that pine to clear away some branches that were keeping the tri-bander from turning. And last but not least, the infamous Johnny picture. Yeah you know the one. The one where Johnny Fearon, W4WKP is wrapped up like a mummy asleep. I don't think anyone is going to get that careless this year because we are going to have cameras all over the place. So think twice if you're in a moment of weakness, because you never know when someone will come up to you and say, "smile, you're on Candid Camera". So be for warned John Farr, KD6CLO, prozac will not be available and you will need to bring your own (hi hi).

I'm having fun just writing this and thinking back on the good times. So what will it be this year? What will be the defining moment? Do you know? Well there's only one way to find out, and that's to make a commitment right now and decide to be a part of Field Day 97. You'll be glad you did.



GARS 1997 Field Day Committee

Chairman

Mark Kozma, KD3GC

Members

Don Button, AJ1T

Gail Button

Walter Byrant, WB4PQQ

Beverly Bryant, KE4VDI

Ron Langston, WE50

Guy West, N0MMA

Pickett Cummins, AD4S

**The GARZETTE
Field Day '97
Special Edition
was printed courtesy of**

Born Printing

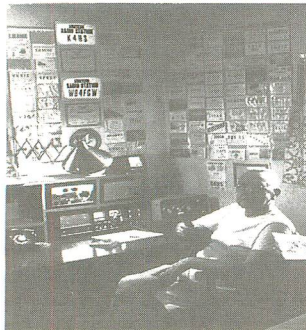
3550 Lawrenceville Suwanee Rd
Suite 104
Suwanee, GA 30174
(770)945-4575
www.bornprinting.com

Art Smith, KE4MQX

Thanks to Art and his staff
from all of us at **GARS**

A Look At K4HS

By C. Randy Drescher, K4HS



Charles R. Drescher, K4HS, the original holder of the callsign that **GARS** will use on Field Day 1997.

Photograph courtesy of Randy Drescher, K4HS

I am honored that the club will be using my callsign at Field Day 1997. I thought this might present an excellent opportunity for me to fulfill a long-standing promise - namely, to write an article for the newsletter.

For those of you that don't know me besides just as "that **GARS** treasurer guy", I'm going to use this article to tell you a little about myself as well as the prior owner of K4HS. Interestingly, Field Day 1997 will represent my first anniversary to the day with this callsign, which I received through Gate 1 of the FCC's vanity Callsign Program.

The callsign, K4HS is very sentimental and special to me. The prior owner of K4HS was my later father, Charles R. Drescher (Yes, I am a junior but as Dad knew I despised the name Charles.). He was obviously many things to me, including being my Elmer. We stayed very close in the hobby right up until his death in October, 1975. Dad was a licensed Amateur Radio Operator from 1922 to 1975. His original callsign, 1IM was issued by the Department of Commerce in 1922 and was signed by Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover. (Like I did for pictures you

see, I have searched my archives for that license to let interested folks see it - but to no avail at the time this article was finalized.)

Dad was employed for over 35 years with Ford Motor Company in various capacities. One of the more interesting assignments he had was during the Second World War when he was in charge of Radio Operations and Installation for the B-24 Liberator bombers made in Ford's Willow Run plant in Michigan. One of those receivers, a BC348J, would 20 years forward become my original SWL and ham receiver.

Just like his son, Dad had periods of inactivity in the hobby. But he brought it back full scale when failing eyesight caused an early retirement from Ford in 1965 wherein we moved from Florida to Massachusetts where I spent the first 14 years of my life. (Note: You folks who hear me speak about my athletic kids would be interested to know that my very promising high school and perhaps college ice hockey career went down the drain after that move. I did play basketball in high school but wasn't very tall. My basketball career also abruptly ended when out high school in Sarasota, Florida integrated - bringing a number of far more talented stars of an Afro-American persuasion to our school.)

With my athletic career in shambles coupled with a real closeness my Dad and I had developed with his failing eyesight, I got "into" ham radio. He was my teacher and showed no mercy on the CW especially since I had to travel to Tampa on a bus to take my test before an FCC examiner. Needless to say with him, failure was not part of my vocabulary. I passed my Novice in February, 1967, my General in



C. Randy Drescher, WB4FGW, who is now K4HS.

Photograph courtesy of Randy Drescher, K4HS

June, 1967, and my Advanced in February, 1968. The pictures you see are in our shack (which was my bedroom) in Sarasota, Florida, circa 1968. I was about to turn 16 and had just gotten one of those insisted upon haircuts - with apologies to Lennon and McCartney.

By the time I had graduated from high school and went to Florida State in the fall of 1969, Dad and I had both conquered DXCC, WAC, WAS, etc., etc. I still have a lot of those QSL cards and had (yes, unfortunately past tense) his DXCC with close to 300 countries confirmed. I only had about 220 confirmed as the then WB4FGW (1967-1993). AC4PD was 1993-1996.

We talked a lot on the air when I was at FSU, and later when I began a banking career in Miami in 1973. I was examining a bank in Winter Haven, Florida when Mom tracked me down and phoned me to tell me Dad had become a silent key on an October night in 1975. He went the way any licensed ham would like to go - albeit a bit early at the age of 69. He was in a round table with a group of friends on 20 meters along

Continued on Page 7

A Look At K4HS

Continued from page 6

with a piece of freshly baked chocolate cake at his side. He had a heart attack and died just as he turned it over to another station. Needless to say, I had reflections of that along with many other memories when I resurrected K4HS and used it for the first time about a year ago.

Come out to Field Day 1997 - contesting is really fun and is something I have always been fond of. Considering Dad was a "full-time" operator, contesting was about the only thing I could whip him at - given my youth as a distinct advantage.



Random Ramblings

"Given a choice between two theories, take the one which is funnier."

>>> Blore's Razor

"Americans will put up with anything provided it doesn't block traffic."

>>> Dan Rather

"Where a calculator on the ENIAC is equipped with 18,000 vacuum tubes and weighs 30 tons, computers in the future may have only 1,000 vacuum tubes and perhaps weigh 1 1/2 tons."

>>> Popular Mechanics, March 1949

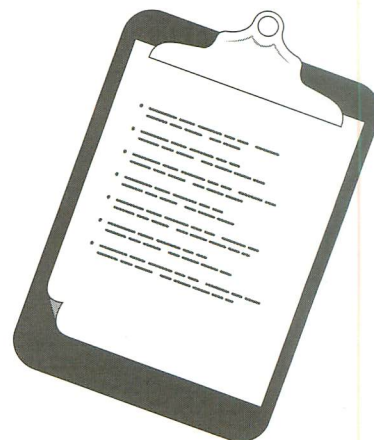
"Imagine if every Thursday your shoes exploded if you tied them the usual way. This happens to us all the time with computers, and nobody thinks of complaining."

>>> Jeff Raskin



GARS Field Day Logging

By J. Pickett Cummins, AD4S



GARS has chosen to do its Field Day logging manually. We have looked at the possibility of using computers, but computers and motor generators don't go well together. The problems of finding enough laptops and coping with dead batteries have kept us from considering that option. The other problem with using a computer program (and there are many good ones) is the training problem. So we continue to use manual logs. It is also easier to train someone in the middle of the night to pick up and keep on going when using manual logs.

Entries for Field Day do not require a date or time. What is required is a valid ARRL Section (either 2 or 3 alpha characters), a call sign, and a signal report. Stations can be worked once on each phone band and once on each CW band. All contacts on HF non-phone bands are counted as CW so there are no additional benefits from trying to work RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, etc. if you have already worked him on CW.

GARS prepares a separate log book for each HF Band/Mode that the Club may want to use during Field Day. Each log has a sufficient number of pages to record far more contacts than the Club normally makes during this event.

This year we are going to add two new items to the logbook. One is a space to show who the operator is during a particular sequence of contacts. (This does not include any separate logging assistance.) We may decide on special recognition to the most number of contacts by an operator (perhaps by mode). The other change will be to include in a prominent location, the valid ARRL Sections. When a station replies 59 in Northern New Jersey, the entry in the logbook should be NNJ, not NJ.

Handling of duplicates manually is not a real problem if you use the manual dupe sheet that is supplied for each band/mode. Once you get used to the format, it is a pretty quick scan to see if you have worked that station on that band/mode. It is better to go ahead and make the contact and put it in the log. **GARS** has a computerized reporting system that detects duplicate band/mode contacts.

There are probably as many approaches to snagging contacts in a contest, as there are contests. I like to work without a separate person logging. I like to scan the bands as opposed to trying to carve out a hold in a band and call QRZ Field Day. Others like to call QRZ and are quite successful doing that. As a matter of fact, Dean Matthews, AD4OD has a voice synthesizer that calls QRZ FD for him. (How much fun can a guy have?) Any time I hear a good signal, I jot down the call and zone on a scratch paper, the back of the previous log sheet will do. My theory is if I hear them good, they can hear me and I get them sooner or later. That way in the rush to make contact, you don't have to spend any time gathering the information, you just concentrate on the call sign.

Continued on page

Field Day Rememberances

By Robin Huckaby, WB4GKI

One field day, the Griffin club decided to use a helium balloon to lift the end of a vertical wire. We were operating from the top of a hill and must have had at least 300 feet of wire suspended from the balloon. Using a tuner and working the wire against ground, we had a potent signal on all bands. We were certainly doing fine business on 80 and 40 meters. There was one little glitch, though. In the wee hours of the morning, a thunderstorm sneaked up on us. I guess we were too intent on working stations to notice the storm until there was a nearby lightning strike. There's nothing like simultaneous flash and thunder to get your attention, especially when you are sitting in front of a radio attached to a 300-foot ground rod extending above the highest terrain! We almost had a fight on our hands. One guy grabbed a hatchet and ran for the antenna to cut it loose, while another, apparently concerned about the cost of the balloon and helium, wanted to reel it in. I watched from a distance as they pulled in the lightning rod in the midst of the thunderstorm!

No field day is without its antenna problems. Another field day, also in Griffin, we used an open wire fed 1300-foot dipole. The plan was to use a tuner and operate on all bands. Well, it did tune up fine - it just didn't seem to radiate as well as expected considering it was up about 60 feet. We didn't find the problem until tear down - the feed line was twisted at the connection to the antenna. Maybe we invented a new antenna - the top-loaded shorted feed line.

Still another field day, the Griffin club decided to use a gain antenna on 40 meters. We put together a wire antenna consisting of several half waves in phase and installed it in the trees. When the local news-

paper reporter showed up to document our activities for publicity, we were tuning the phasing stubs. One fellow was in the bucket of a bucket truck and was running a fluorescent tube held in his hand along the length of the stubs to find the peaks and nulls so the stub lengths could be adjusted. The reporter was more impressed with the un-powered lamp glowing in the RF field than with the field day operation.

Another field day in Griffin, we used a Mosley TA-36. This is a large 6-element yagi with excellent gain and front-to-back ratio. Results were good, just not quite as good as expected. It seems the antenna was installed in the rotator backwards (no wonder we did so well working the Europeans when we were aimed at California)!

One more antenna story. One field day, I took my 4BTV four-band trap vertical to the **GARS** location. I had removed it from the home installation and transported it intact by lashing it to the wing mirror and bed of my truck. The plan was to do nothing, which might affect the tuning of the antenna. As we were tearing down the field day setup, I happened upon one of the **GARS** members who had torn down my vertical into little pieces, thinking I had to transport it in the trunk of car. That totally screwed the tuning I had spent hours achieving! I've never been able to get it tuned properly since.

GARS used a 10-kW diesel generator for a power source at one field day. This deluxe piece of hardware had all kinds of on-board monitoring. It had meters and warning indicators for over-under voltage, over-current, low oil, and low fuel. The fuel system was kind of neat. There was an on-board 1.5-gallon fuel tank with an automatic replenishment pump, which kept the on-board tank

full from a separate 55-gallon drum. Early in the morning, while operating the 40-meter position, I saw one of the indicators come on. So I shut down the station and went to investigate. It was the low-fuel indicator. The fuel gauge showed 20 minutes of fuel remaining. So I roused John, N4BGL (owner) and we proceeded to troubleshoot. We determined in short order that the problem was a blockage in the line between the 55-gallon drum and the replenishment pump. So we removed the line, reverse-flushed it, and reinstalled it opposite the original installation, all in about 15 minutes. The pump immediately replenished the on-board tank and the generator finished out field day with no other problems. The 20-meter operators operated through the whole exercise, never knowing there was a problem.

GARS used a 4-cylinder-powered 3.5KW generator on field day for several years. The unit ran at 3600 rpm, making it quite noisy. You couldn't get far enough away from it to keep from getting deafened. Another interesting trait of this particular unit was that it was *air-cooled* and ran hot, so hot that after a couple of hours operating, the exhaust manifolds glowed red. It was quite impressive as a "beacon" after dark.

I'm not much of a contesteer. Every now and then, everything will click and I'll be up for a contest. There was a field day like that. It was the first time I used an electronic keyer. I had purchased the keyer a couple of days before, so I practiced about 30 minutes to get the hang of it, then jumped into the fray on 20 meter CW using a Swan 350. The Swan was well known for its broad selectivity. And to top that, the transmit/receive switching was manual!

Continued on page 9

Field Day Rememberences

Continued from page 8

Anyway, conditions were good and I operated CW for nine hours, making just over 320 contacts (about one every 1.7 minutes average). I then shifted to phone and made around 300 contacts in seven hours (one every 1.4 minutes average). I worked two stations in a given minute a number of times, and came close to getting three on several occasions.

I have seen it a couple of times and still have a rough time believing it. Did you know that you could work two stations simultaneously? I'm not good enough to do it, but I've seen fellows call CQ and get several responses. They will respond to the slow station, then when the slow station starts transmitting, they will answer the fast station, make the required exchanges, and return to the slow station about the time he turns it back.



Random Ramblings

"It doesn't make a difference what temperature a room is, it's always room temperature."

>>> Stephen Wright

"I believe we are on an irreversible trend toward more freedom and democracy - but that could change."

>>> Vice President Dan Quayle

"Paradise is exactly like where you are right now...only much, much better"

>>> Laurie Anderson

"And remember, no matter where you go, there you are."

>>> Buckaroo Banzai



GARS Field Day Logging

Continued from page 7

One thing about contests, you can't be bashful and do well in making contacts. You just have to get in there and duke it out with everyone else. Don't hesitate to go back to a station if he is standing by for a call that has anything in it that sounds like K4HS. You can always play dumb and say you were having trouble copying though all the QRM. For instance; if the station stood by for the "Hotel Nancy", you go right back to him as if he had said "Hotel Sierra". What the heck, they can't fine you or put you in jail.

Another trick that I have found effective is to tune off the frequency slightly in the direction that makes you sound a little like Donald Duck on SSB. You would be surprised how many times people will distinguish your call in the midst of all the bedlam.

Be polite once you make the contact, and thank the station for the points, but don't hesitate to push and shove to get the contact.

The main thing is to get the adrenaline going and have a grand time!



Random Ramblings

"I never think of the future - it comes soon enough."

>>> Albert Einstein

"Well, if I called the wrong number, why did you answer the phone?"

>>> James Thurber

"The ships hung in the sky in much the same way that bricks don't."

>>> Douglas Adams



Field Day 1997 List of Events

Friday

6:00 pm Antenna setup

Saturday

8:00 am Site setup
Noon Lunch
2:00 pm Contest starts
6:00 pm Evening dinner
8:00 pm Dessert time
Midnight Snack time

Sunday

7:00 am Breakfast
11:00 am Lunch
2:00 pm Contest ends
Site teardown
and cleanup

GARS Field Day Talk In

Need directions to the **GARS** Field Day site? A talk in will be run on the **GARS** 2 meter repeater, 147.075(+) MHz. The talk in will begin at 8:00 AM on Saturday, June 28. Use the **GARS** 440 repeater 444.525(+) MHz as an alternate communications link. We'll use 146.505 MHz as a simplex talk around for site communications.



Field Day 1997 Satellite Pass Schedule

By Don Button, AJ1T

<u>Satellite</u>	<u>Pass Date</u>	<u>Pass Starts</u>	<u>Pass Ends</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<i>Saturday afternoon passes</i>				
RS-12	Saturday 6/28/97	01:57 PM	02:12 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
RS-15	Saturday 6/28/97	02:43 PM	03:06 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
KO-23	Saturday 6/28/97	03:07 PM	03:27 PM	Digital Korean PACSAT
FO-20	Saturday 6/28/97	03:22 PM	03:39 PM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
RS-15	Saturday 6/28/97	04:51 PM	05:21 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
KO-23	Saturday 6/28/97	05:01 PM	05:22 PM	Digital Korean PACSAT
FO-20	Saturday 6/28/97	05:14 PM	05:29 PM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
<i>Saturday evening passes</i>				
KO-23	Saturday 6/28/97	07:02 PM	07:18 PM	Digital Korean PACSAT
RS-15	Saturday 6/28/97	07:06 PM	07:33 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
FO-29	Saturday 6/28/97	07:31 PM	07:46 PM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
UO-22	Saturday 6/28/97	08:29 PM	08:33 PM	Digital PACSAT
KO-23	Saturday 6/28/97	09:05 PM	09:15 PM	Digital Korean PACSAT
FO-29	Saturday 6/28/97	09:13 PM	09:32 PM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
RS-10	Saturday 6/28/97	09:22 PM	09:37 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
RS-15	Saturday 6/28/97	09:27 PM	09:48 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
UO-22	Saturday 6/28/97	010:02 PM	010:16 PM	Digital PACSAT
<i>Sunday morning passes</i>				
FO-20	Sunday 6/29/97	06:50 AM	07:08 AM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
RS-10	Sunday 6/29/97	08:23 AM	08:38 AM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
FO-29	Sunday 6/29/97	08:30 AM	08:41 AM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
RS-10	Sunday 6/29/97	10:08 AM	10:25 AM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
FO-29	Sunday 6/29/97	10:13 AM	10:28 AM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
UO-22	Sunday 6/29/97	10:15 AM	10:28 AM	Digital PACSAT
RS-12	Sunday 6/29/97	10:55 AM	11:08 AM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
RS-16	Sunday 6/29/97	11:29 AM	11:38 AM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
UO-22	Sunday 6/29/97	11:54 AM	12:08 PM	Digital PACSAT
RS-10	Sunday 6/29/97	11:56 AM	12:06 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
<i>Sunday afternoon passes</i>				
FO-29	Sunday 6/29/97	12:01 PM	12:10 PM	SSB/CW analog Japanese satellite
RS-12	Sunday 6/29/97	12:39 PM	12:57 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
RS-16	Sunday 6/29/97	01:02 PM	01:11 PM	SSB/CW analog Russian satellite
UO-22	Sunday 6/29/97	01:35 PM	01:41 PM	Digital PACSAT

There are other passes on Saturday morning and afternoon before the operating period begins, come by the site for a schedule.

All analog satellite passes will be monitored by Don Button, AJ1T and all digital satellite passes will be monitored by Bob Smith, N3FTU.

The Field Day Satellite Station Gets Bigger

By Don Button, AJ1T

During this year's Field Day, we plan to expand the Satellite station to include Bob Smith's (N3FTU) digital satellite capability. This year, Bob will show us how to upload and download packet messages using the various digital satellites. We will earn points by downloading Field Day greeting messages from other Field Day participants.

These digital satellite usually operate at 9600 baud (compared to the usual 1200 baud signals you hear on the 2 meter band), and often use different modulation schemes than ordinary packet radio. The high data rate lets us exchange a maximum amount of data during each satellite "pass". Then, modulation schemes are chosen during the satellite design which conserve the satellite's battery as much as possible. Because of these things, Bob has a special modem designed especially for PACSAT use.

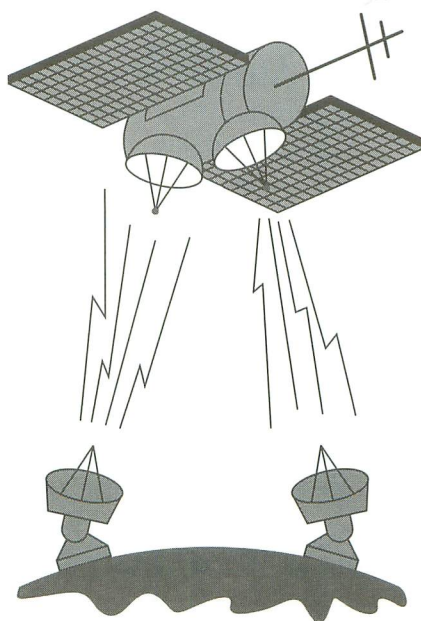
In fact, Bob's home station is completely computer controlled. That is, the computer predicts when the satellite pass will occur, and, at the right time, it starts uploading and downloading messages automatically. All the downloaded messages are stored on Bob's computer. Actually, Bob doesn't have to be at home at all during all this! With his busy work schedule, and frequent trips to the Washington, D. C. area, this automated mode is ideal for keeping in touch with other hams around the world.

Bob and I hope that you will visit his station during Field Day. He will be in the lower pavillion, right next to my "analog mode" satellite station.

This year's analog mode (SSB and CW) station will be similar to last year's, but we plan to try operation

on a brand new Russian satellite called RS-16. This bird was placed in orbit just a few months ago, and few people have used it so far. To access it, you transmit on 2 meters, and listen for the downlink signal on 10 meters. Of course, like last year, we will also use RS-10, RS-12, and RS-15.

Please look over the satellite schedule in this Garzette. We plan a busy weekend - Bob has about four digital satellites he will use, and I plan to use four analog satellites. This means we have 8 satellites to choose from all weekend! So do stop by - with 8 satellites to use, chances are good that the next one will fly over in just a few minutes!



GARS Field Day is

Johnny, W4WKP sleeping away in the middle of the main pavilion.

Howie, W4NVF and his "YL" voice trying to snare Hawaii in the early morning hours.

Good food and fellowship.

Don, AJ1T and his satellite setups.

Guy, N0MMA stringing up his portable quad.

Walter, WB4PQQ and his crossbow getting the lead lines up for the antennas.

Bev, KE4VDI driving ground rods with Howie providing the back beat.

The great missing ground rod hunt or I know we put it right here last year.

Earl, KE4TXZ and his dutch oven cobblers.

Junior, KE4VWN climbing up to get that branch out of the way of the beam on the portable tower.

The new antenna mast for the Novice/Technician station made by Raymond, KF4BPP.

A visitors log showing 150 people coming by the 1996 site.

No, you're not seeing double, that is Pickett, AD4S and Ed, W5CE.

Fun! Food! Friendly folks!

Collect your memories from the 1997 **GARS** Field Day, come by and join in the fun.



Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 88
Lilburn, GA 30048



GARS Field Day 1997

Operating Hours:

Saturday, June 28, 1997

14:00 Local

To

Sunday, June 29, 1997

14:00 Local

ARRL Section:

Georgia

Station Class:

7A

Callsign:

K4HS

Location:

Rhodes Jordan Park

Lawrenceville, GA

The park is in Lawrenceville, off of Crogan Steet (U.S. 29) on Lake Road. From downtown Lawrenceville take the first left after the intersection of GA 124 and Crogan next to the baseball fields and the swimming pool. Follow that road around past the baseball fields and the lake, the **GARS** Field Day site will be on the right at the top of the hill in the two large pavillions.

Stations:

20 Meter CW

40 Meter CW

80 Meter CW

20 Meter Phone

40 Meter Phone

75 Meter Phone

10/15 Meter CW/Phone

Novice

Analog Satellite

Digital Satellite

Packet

VHF CW/SSB/FM